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Though I have opposed the war in Iraq from its inception, I remain absolutely committed to ensuring that we recognize, celebrate, and honor the service of our sons and daughters returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. Our troops in Iraq did everything we asked them to do, and I firmly believe that we must commend the men and women of our military for their exemplary performance and success in Iraq.

I am proud to be a cosponsor on H. Res. 1054—Honoring the service and achievements of women in the Armed Forces and female veterans (Representative DAVIS (CA)—Armed Services) and H.R. 3819—Veterans Emergency Care Fairness Act of 2007 (Representative SPACE—Veterans' Affairs).

We are providing for our Veterans with legislation such as:

H.R. 6081—The Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008 (Representative RANGEL—Ways and Means).

H. Res. 986—Recognizing the courage and sacrifice of those members of the United States Armed Forces who were held as prisoners of war during the Vietnam conflict and calling for a full accounting of the 1,729 members of the Armed Forces who remain unaccounted for from the Vietnam conflict (Representative BOEHNER—Armed Services)—Recorded Vote

H.R. 2790—To establish the position of Director of Physician Assistant Services within the office of the Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Health as amended (Representative HARE—Veterans' Affairs).

H.R. 3681—Veterans Benefits Awareness Act of 2007 (Representative BOOZMAN—Veterans' Affairs).

H.R. 3889—To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a longitudinal study of the vocational rehabilitation programs administered by the Secretary (Representative BOOZMAN—Veterans' Affairs)—Passed

H.R. 5554—Veterans Substance Use Disorders Prevention and Treatment Act of 2008

(Representative MICHAUD—Veterans' Affairs)—Passed

H.R. 5664—To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to update at least once every six years the plans and specifications for specially adapted housing furnished to veterans by the Secretary (Representative RODRIGUEZ—Veterans' Affairs).

H.R. 5826—Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2008 (Representative RODRIGUEZ—Veterans' Affairs)—Recorded Vote

H.R. 5856—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Authorization and Lease Act of 2008 (Representative MICHAUD—Veterans' Affairs).

H.R. 6048—To amend the Service members Civil Relief Act to provide for the protection of child custody arrangements for parents who are members of the Armed Forces deployed in support of a contingency operation (Representative TURNER—Veterans' Affairs).

I firmly believe that we should celebrate our veterans after every conflict, and I remain committed, as a Member of Congress, to both meeting the needs of veterans of previous wars, and to provide a fitting welcome home to those who are now serving. Veterans have kept their promise to serve our Nation; they have willingly risked their lives to protect the country we all love. We must now ensure that we keep our promises to our veterans.

Currently, there are over 25 million veterans in the United States. There are more than 1,633,000 veterans living in Texas and more than 32,000 veterans living in my congressional district alone. I hope we will all take the time to show appreciation to those who have answered the call to duty. As Winston Churchill famously stated, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting our troops of yesteryear and our troops of today.

#### HONORING WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES AND FEMALE VETERANS

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2008*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support this legislation that honors the sacrifice and courage of women in our armed forces. I would like to thank my fellow Women's Caucus member and the gentle lady from California, Congresswoman SUSAN DAVIS for introducing this legislation.

This legislation could not be more timely. Last week we failed to pass the Iraq/Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations bill. This failure was not due to our feelings for our men and women in the armed forces but goes to the heart of where we stand with this ill-begotten war.

No matter how we voted last week, I believe that all of us, on both sides of the aisle, strongly support our men and women who are in harm's way. At this point I truly believe that only diplomacy and global cooperation can ease the tensions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This resolution brings us back to focusing on the actual men and women in our armed

forces. This is right where the focus should be.

With over 185,000 women having been deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and other missions since 2001 and nearly 350,000 women serving in the Armed Forces make up almost 15 percent of active duty personnel and over 17 percent of the National Guard reserve forces—it is time we celebrate what women are doing in the armed forces.

Women have been aiding the U.S. war effort for years. With 34,000 women serving in World War I, 400,000 serving in World War II, 120,000 serving in the Korean War, and well over 7,000 served in the Vietnam War—women were clearly serving in our Nation's military well before our current missions.

I chose to celebrate one of our heroic daughters of Texas, Specialist Monica L. Brown of the United States Army with House Concurrent Resolution 320 for her efforts earlier this year.

Spec. Brown was the first woman in Afghanistan and only the second female soldier since World War II to receive the Silver Star, the Nation's third-highest medal for valor. This soldier from Lake Jackson, Texas is only 19 years old.

On April 25, 2007, Specialist Brown was part of a four-vehicle convoy patrolling near Jani Kheil in the eastern province of Paktia on April 25, 2007, when a bomb struck one of the Humvees.

When Spec. Brown saw her fellow soldiers were injured, she grabbed her aid bag and started running toward the burning vehicle as insurgents opened fire. All five wounded soldiers from her platoon scrambled out. Under this commotion, she assessed her patients and moved them to a safer location because they were still receiving incoming fire.

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According to the Army four Army nurses in World War II were the first women to receive the Silver Star, though three nurses serving in World War I were awarded the medal posthumously in 2007. Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester, of Nashville, Tenn., was the first to receive the Silver Star in 2005 along with two fellow male soldiers for her gallantry during an insurgent ambush on a convoy in Iraq.

The Army has stated that Spec. Brown's "bravery, unselfish actions and medical aid rendered under fire saved the lives of her comrades and represents the finest traditions of heroism in combat."

This legislation is not about condoning the wars in Afghanistan or in Iraq. This legislation is about us supporting and honoring our troops.

It is about this Nation's children fighting for the rights of all of us in places we do not dare to go, under environments we cannot fully appreciate from this comfortable position.

Spec. Brown reminds us that our youth are fighting in this war, our mothers and daughters are fighting in this war, and they deserve to be recognized for their achievements.

However, we not only recognize the sacrifice and courage of Spec. Brown, or even just the brave acts of her fellow soldiers, marines, and airmen. We must also recognize the

families of our military. Spec. Brown's grandmother said she was the proudest grandmother in all of Lake Jackson, Texas, when she learned of her granddaughter's heroism.

We should all be as proud of our young men and women as Spec. Brown's grandmother. In being proud of them, we are not condoning the Administration, we are recognizing their efforts and their belief in what they have been tasked to do.

We sit in these chambers and discuss the idea of war, and the economic costs to the Nation. However, our men and women in Afghanistan and Iraq are dealing with the realities of war every day. Their families are also dealing with it every day, as they have to move forward without their loved ones.

I am proud of Specialist Monica L. Brown, Texas is proud of Monica L. Brown, and this country should be proud of all the Specialist Brown's and all the women like her who have fought the equality war at home and the fight for freedom abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join Representative SUSAN DAVIS and myself in recognizing our women in the armed forces.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

### HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 2008*

Mr. HAYES. Madam Speaker, I wish to submit the following earmark for the RECORD.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBIN HAYES.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, The Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Other Procurement Army (OPA), Training Devices—Non-System.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: General Dynamics Information Technology.

Address of Requesting Entity: 2941 Fairview Park Dr., Suite 100, Falls Church, VA 22041.

Description of Request: This request is for authorization of \$4 million FY '09 OPA funding to allow instrumentation of 12 to 14 of the remaining buildings at the Range 74 Combined Arms Collective Training Facility (CACTF) site to Combined Arms MOUT Task Force (CAMTF) standard. The Army's CAMTF training requirement provides 80 percent coverage for a generic 20–26 building site. The Ft. Bragg Range 74 CACTF consists of thirty-two (32) training buildings, only six (or 18%) of which are instrumented. Ft. Bragg's CACTF supports sixteen (16) brigade-equivalent units with six (6) instrumented buildings. Considering the XVIII ABC training throughput, the level of instrumentation currently fielded is not commensurate with the size and scope found at installations with smaller training requirements. Fort Campbell's Cassidy Urban Training Complex and Eighth Army's Rodriguez CACTF in Korea are illustrative of the Army's training strategy and feature at least 18–20 instrumented training buildings, per facility. The situation is more pronounced when you examine the troop populations at each installation. Currently, the Rodriguez site supports one maneuver brigade of the 2nd Infantry Division, while Cassidy hosts three maneuver brigades from the 101st Airborne Division. There is a compelling need to instrument another twelve

to fourteen (12–14) buildings at the Ft Bragg CACTF to align it closer to the Army's standard.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBIN HAYES.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, The Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: RDT&E, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Combat Displays, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 100–B Industrial Drive, New Bern, NC 28562.

Description of Request: Provide an authorization of \$6,800,000 for development of environmentally sealed, ruggedized avionics displays for vertical lift systems and will be done in conjunction with the Center for Vertical Lift Excellence, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point, NC in support of technology to benefit our military aviators. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the Navy RDT&E account.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBIN HAYES.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, The Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Defense-Wide Procurement.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Raytheon Technical Services Company.

Address of Requesting Entity: 6125 E 21st St., Indianapolis, IN 46219–2058.

Description of Request: Provide an authorization of \$6,000,000 to procure 80 RAMS B kits for Special Operations Forces. RAMS is a remote-controller initiator to control the activation of demolitions. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the Defense Wide Procurement account. These kits are used extensively by United States Special Operations Command and our servicemembers in OIF and OEF.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBIN HAYES.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, The Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: OPN Budget Activity 01, Line #19, Items Less than \$5 million.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: IMO Pump.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1710 Airport Road, Monroe, NC, USA.

Description of Request: Provide an authorization of \$4 million for the procurement and installation of Canned Lube Pumps (CLP) on four LSD–41/49 Class amphibious ships. This funding will purchase 16 CLP units to complete the LSD–41 class. Approximately, \$400,000 is for technical support for installation; \$2.8M for the CLP units and installation; \$600,000 for battle spares; \$200,000 for proto-type shipboard test for LHD class. The Navy has indicated that the total savings over the life of the LSD 41/49 class from installing the CLP is over \$33.1 million and the return investment to the Navy is 394 percent. This funding will complete the procurement and installation of the Whidbey Island Class.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBIN HAYES.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, The Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Defense-Wide, RDT & E.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNCC) and Northrup Grumman.

Address of Requesting Entity: UNC–Charlotte Campus in Charlotte, NC is the location of performance (where the work will be done): University of North Carolina–Charlotte, 9201 University City Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28223 and Northrup Grumman, 7323 Aviation Blvd., Mail Stop 1105, Baltimore, MD 21040.

Description of Request: Provide a \$3 million authorization for Superlattice Nanotechnology research for the Department of Defense to be performed at UNC–Charlotte. Most of today's compound semiconductor devices made from silicon (Si) and silicon germanium (SiGe) have high power capabilities, but are limited by defect density and other factors affecting yield, cost and performance. One of the most promising new materials is SiC, which is used to make high power radio frequency (RF), power switching, and high current switching devices for a multitude of DOD applications. Superlattice nanotechnology can mitigate the size, yield and performance limitations of SiC by utilizing atomic level control of the SiC-on-Si growth process. This will greatly reduce the cost and improve the performance of many of the desired SiC devices. Superlattice nanotechnology will form the structure for the next dimension in RF electronics (Radar, EW, communications), radiation hard electronics (satellite, special use), and power conditioning electronics (DEW, electromagnetic gun), enabling performance levels unachievable with today's technology. Request \$5.0 million be added to the President's FY09 Budget Request to continue development of silicon carbide (SiC) Superlattice Nanotechnology.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBIN HAYES.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, The Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Defense-Wide, RDT & E.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: United Protective Technologies.

Address of Requesting Entity: United Protective Technologies (UPT), 4600 H Lebanon Road, Charlotte, NC 28227 and their Locust, North Carolina facility.

Description of Request: Provide a \$2 million authorization for Non-Hazardous Infrared Anti-Reflective Coatings for Army Aircraft Sensors. An alternative coating to extend the service life of expensive and critical infrared range sensor windows is now available. This coating presents none of the health or environmental impacts found in other currently used Anti-reflective coatings. Prototype examples and early stage data of this new capability have been presented to the U.S. Army and have received very positive feedback. Key features include unprecedented environment stability, and excellent abrasion and erosion protection. This coating may also be used on both flat windows and on dome-shaped configurations. This coating will increase the survivability of sensor windows and reduce cost of ownership through an increase in operation life and performance. Army provided Cost/Benefit analysis shows that the windows of the AH–64 Targeting Sensor Array (TADS/PNVS) are currently demonstrating a Mean Time between Unscheduled Removal of 5031 (PNVS) and 5495 (TADS) flight hours. With the current Operational Tempo AH–64's can be expected to fly approximately 100,000 flight hours per year (total fleet). Based on the damage seen on removed windows, a conservative estimate is that this coating will cut unscheduled removals by 50%, saving \$41 8,000/year for the